

RADIO PYTHAGORAS

HISTORY: Radio Pythagoras 1st broadcast was on May 31st '83, using a 4W tx on 103 MHz FM. Between 1983 & 1986, a number of irregular trms took place, usually on Public Holidays. In Mid-June 1984, the facilities of Radio Pythagoras were used by a sister station called Radio Peninsula, in which Beergut Melvyn presented his 'Rock Revenge' show of all instrumental rock tracks. The last FM trm went out on New Year's Day 1987, using a new 17W tx on 90 MHz. Response to these pxs was somewhat disappointing, although the station built up a small, cult following, mostly among 'friends of friends' who had heard the tapes rather than the actual station. In 1987, a number of short tests were made in the 49 & 41 metre bands using a borrowed 8W tx. However, due to the low power, poor propagation conditions and interference from powerful Irish stations, these pxs weren't widely heard. Radio Pythagoras remained silent throughout 1988, attempts to design a more powerful tx using VMOS technology proved to be a blind alley. However, in mid-1989 a non-functioning amateur tx of early 60's vintage was purchased, reconstructed and modified with croc-clips and 33 pF capacitors. After a number of tests (without any announcements), this new tx was first used to air the Pythagoras pxs of Sun November 5th 1989.

TECHNICAL DETAILS: The transmitter is a Heathkit HW40U, using screen-grid modulated 6146 P.A. valve. Output is approx. 20W RF. The antenna is a half wave inverted V dipole, balun fed. A.F. Processor: homebrew clipper/compressor, based on the so-called 'Optimod' system. Studio-equipment consists of a Sony mixing desk, CD player and several cassette decks. The recording deck is manufactured by Harman Kardon.

STAFF: Freddie Frunze (studio engineer), Bartok Jaruzelski (station founder and deejay), Neville Skanderberg (engineer), Vladimar Tashkent (antenna rigger) and Nikola Tesla (engineer). Quite international...

INTERVAL SIGNAL: Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' played on an electrical doorbell.

SIGN-ON MUSIC: Leos Janacek's 'Sinfonietta' (first movement).

SIGN-OFF MUSIC: Quiet Sun-'Mummy was an astoroid, Daddy was a small, non-stick kitchen utensil' followed by Labour Chorus' 'The Internationale'.

The story of Radio Pythagoras was sent to us by one of our English club-members. Thanks a lot. By the way, don't doubt about our intellectual powers! It is a story which is a bit different.....

MAILING ADDRESS: 57 Holme Lacey Road, London, SE12 0HP in England.

THE magazine for free radio enthusiasts.....

« FRS * GOES * DX »

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NO FRS-HOLLAND JANUARY BROADCAST

SEVERAL PROBLEMS PREVENTED FRS-HOLLAND FROM INTRODUCING ITS BRANDNEW PROHGRAMME-SCHEDULE JANUARY 21ST. IN THE MEAN TIME PREPARATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO BRING BACK FRSH ON AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE NEW JINGLE PACKAGE IS ALMOST FINISHED. A NEW GERMAN DEEJAY, JOHNNY BEST, WILL REPLACE DANNY KAY WHO WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE STATION DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN CONTRAST WITH WHAT SOME PEOPLE SUGGEST, FRS-HOLLAND IS STILL LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE AND RELIABLE TRANSMITTING LOCATION TO SECURE MONTHLY 3RD SUNDAY TRANSMISSIONS. FRS-HOLLAND APOLOGIES FOR NOT KEEPING THE PROMISE TO INTRODUCE THE 'NEW' SERVICE AS FROM JANUARY ONWARDS. THE STATION HOPES TO BE BACK ON SW IN FEBRUARY.

CAROLINE SURVIVES HURRICANE

LITTLE DAMAGE WAS CAUSED TO THE RADIOSHIP ROSS REVENGE DURING THE VERY BAD WEATHER THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH. ALTHOUGH CAROLINE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE AIRWAVES DURING THE HURRICANE (FORCE 12 WINDS !), THE STATION WAS ABLE TO RETURN ALREADY THE NEXT DAY. AS FAR AS TEH COMMUNICATOR IS CONCERNED: READ THE OFFSHORE SECTION !!

'FRS GOES DX' is a monthly radio magazine which informs about radio in general and free radio in particular. 'FRS GOES DX' is a publication of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave station, broadcasting to Europe since August 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CORRESPONDENCE-ADDRESS

'FRS GOES DX',
P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten,
The Netherlands.

Use this address for:

- * renewing your membership
- * correspondence with regard to the magazine
- * complaints about sending

Letters, news, comments etc. are more than welcome and highly appreciated!

ADVERTISING

For full or half page advertisements contact us and we'll make a quotation. Small ads: non-commercial adverts, relating to the radio-hobby, are free for members.

Commercial adverts (small) cost DM 3.00/ £ 1.00/ f 3.00/ 3 inc's. We also accept German, Dutch or English stamps.

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EDITORIAL

A big welcome into the 1990's as far as 'FRS Goes DX' is concerned! The start of 1990 wasn't a piece of cake. I'm happy we managed to finish this issue off just before the beginning of February. There is one good reason for publishing this very issue slightly later than the deadline: we were awaiting some very interesting and confidential news about the Communicator project and although we knew we weren't allowed to publish all details (gentleman's agreement), it was worth while to wait for the remaining details. If you want to be as up-to-date as possible or you know there will be some real hot news within a limited period, you simply have the task to try and include the news as soon as possible. 1990 will be a very special year for FRS-Holland as one of the longest serving continental but also European SW hobby stations. Are there that many stations who remain 10 years on air in SW free radio land? I guess the answer must be no!! I do hope we will find the inspiration but moreover the time to prepare a fantastic and unforgettable 10th birthday....

As far as my personal life is concerned, there will be a few important changes. This may have an influence on this mag. What I mean to say is it could be possible that because of very important and personal reasons, I have to decide to skip a month. But we'll 'worry' about that later!

You'll miss the Mailbox 41 column as well as Joop ter Zee's contribution. Joop has been very busy with our new jingle-package which will be introduced soon! More FRS news elsewhere in the mag

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The FRS-Holland staff likes to thank everyone who sent us X-mas cards.



SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

This first offshore section of the 1990's covers the period Dec. 8th-

Jan. 25th. This time we present the news to you via a day-to-day report and in addition to this some general news. We are considering the idea of keeping this 'format' in future but that also depends on you. So if you prefer the old way, please let us know. No reaction always means you agree with us!

Dec. 8th: In Tel Aviv Abe Nathan got a visit from Jossi Sarid, a Parliamentarian. He told Abe that he could get Amnesty if he would declare in front of the TV camera that the talks he had with people of the PLO were a mistake and that he regrets to have had talks. Nathan on his turn told Sarid that he wouldn't do this for he did it for the peace in the Middle East. Abe also told he wouldn't care to continue his 6 month jail sentence.

Joost den Draaier, former deejay on Veronica, RNI and VPRO (Dutch broadcasting society) and during the past two years also active on Cable One (he was director) and Radio Monique (some 3 years ago) presented the last part of the Top 1000 of the last 25 years on the Dutch cablestation Radio 10. Salient detail: Cable One and Radio 10 used to be rivals in The Netherlands. Cable One had to disappear because of not operating according to the Dutch medialaw. The Veronica Top 40 was introduced on Jan. 2nd 1965 by Joost den Draaier who was Veronica's programme-director in those days. Eversince the Top 40 has survived and in the mean time it has become an almost legendary and well-respected chart. Already 15 years ago Veronica broadcasted an All Time Top 1000: July 1974, a few weeks before the close-down of the Dutch offshore stations.

Dec. 9th: From sources in the USA we hear that the MV Sarah has been sold to a group of new owners. Names are not known yet. Perhaps ghost names... Plans are to bring the ship to Europe to start a new life in this part of the world. So far the career of the ship as an offshore vessel was very short. Perhaps another ghostship together with the Nannell and the Communicator.

Today Caroline is off air till just before 17.00 CET. Following a number of non-stop records the first announcement by Gavin Ford at 17.00 CET: 'Welcome to the programmes of Radio caroline.' For the rest no comments why trms started so late instead of early in the morning. Or should this sentence contain an explanation: 'From somewhere in the Northsea' with the emphasis on somewhere. Signal-strength and mod slightly better in compare with previous period.

Dec. 10th: It is announced that during the X-Mas period several well-known deejays from the recent past will be presenting shows on 558. The aerial-system hasn't been completed yet. When this will happen depends on weather and it is said that 558 will be silent for a period of 7 days when the work will be completed. Even though 558 will be off air then, it is mentioned there is a way to continue in that week with broadcasts?? The completion will take place in the New Year. The station is kept alive by help of 'friends'. These people take care of the supply and at this stage there's more than enough water and food aboard that little red ship.

Dec. 11th: 23.00 CET: test-tones on 576 for a period of 5 minutes. Anybody any idea where this signal is coming from? Try it yourself on a Monday around 23.00 CET. Let us know if you heard something and from which direction it came.

Dec. 12th: A co-operation of London attorneys has written a letter to the DTI in which they write that the raid on the Ross in August was totally illegal according to International laws.

They also want a written promise from the DTI that such raids won't take place in future anymore.

Steve Joy who did a 6 month stint on the Voice of Peace can now be heard on Radio Luxembourg's new satellite service.

Dec. 18th: Once again test-tones on 576 kHz...! At 23.00 CET exactly. No, we are not kidding.

Dec. 20th: Due to the fact Abe Nathan is in jail and there is a shortage of deejays and engineers, the Voice of Peace goes off the air during the night. They're still looking for new deejays and qualified engineers.

Who remembers Terry Davis? After a quareel with the Essex Radio management he left the station in October. Soon the former Atlantis and RNI jock will have a new job. He will become the new managing-director of the new ILR station Solar in London (FM station).

Dec. 21st: Caroline today on even lower power than usual. On our monitor's radio S=2 instead of S=5.

Dec. 23rd: The following deejays on the Ross Revenge: Neil Gates, Caroline Martin, Nigel Harris, Dave Asher and Gavin Ford. They will also be aboard the ship during the first two weeks on 1990.

Dec. 24th: Atlantic 252 off air! The station returns on the airwaves late in the afternoon with an instable signal.

Dec. 24th 1964: the official start of Radio London! Today 25 years ago...

Dec. 25th: Radio Hauraki was one of the most famous offshore stations of the past and transmitted 1111 days in the sixties and early seventies off the New Zealand coast. The station became legal in 1970 and is now the most successful station with studios in Auckland. In the 70's a pocketbook was released, written by Adrian Blackburn telling the story of the station. Name of the book: 'The Shoestring Pirate'. Now a new version with excellent colour picturews has been released. Apart from the photos of the Tiri I & II, deejays and the studios, there are a lot of photos which haven't been published before. These photos are all coming from personal archives of the staff and crew of the Hauraki ships. Also what happened after becoming legal has been written and a special chapter tells what happened with all deejays and people behind the former offshore station. For instance with David Gapes, the initiator behind Hauraki. He was in jail for some time because of smuggling drugs. Seems that this happens quite often with former offshore radio persons... (remember Mr. Suzie Wafel himself Sylvain Tack!). All in all a fantastic book. It's a pity the book is so expensive. Reasons: hard cover, many colour photographs and it has to be sent by airmail from another part of the world. For more details write to SMC, Willemsparkweg 121, Amsterdam in Holland.

Dec. 25th: It was quite difficult to pick up Caroline with fair signals. Reason: very low output power. Hans Knot, offshore freak and one of the few real insiders in the world of offshore radio, decided to listen to some old archive recordings from X-Mas from years gone by. The X-Mas recording he remembers most is the fantastic test-trm they did on the MV Mi Amigo in 1973. Just one day before the tests would be commenced, Andy Archer and the other British deejays brought Radio Toad on the air. While playing their favourite songs, having some drinks and doing some greetings, they made a connection between the mixing desk and an old transistor radio, which brought the sound of Radio Northsea Int. (English Service).

Within 15 minutes the RNI deejays knew what happened and

they also connected a transistor to the mixing desk in the on air studio with the sound of Caroline. A beautiful link up programme was the result.

Weekend Music Radio from Scotland reports, during its live broadcast, radiated on no less than 3 frequencies, that Now Radio has spread the news that Caroline will cease trms within 6 months. Even a date was mentioned: Easter 1990, Caroline's 26th birthday. The people of WMR thought this was a rather strange report from Now Radio. Especially the fact it was mentioned that Caroline would return as a broadcasting station on land made it rather confusing. In which way the latter would happen wasn't explained. 'FRS Goes DX' thinks the whole story in Now Radio is rubbish. Simple as that.

On 558 between 15 and 17 CET a taped programme with Jerry Jones (= Jerry James!), Dave Richards and Dave Asher. According to announcements in the show, it would last till 19 CET but this didn't happen.

Dec. 26th: A telex from Israel informs us that Abe Nathan was brought into hospital. According to Abe himself, he doesn't know why they brought him to the little hospital in Kiar Saba forhe is not ill... He thinks that the government will soon give a press conference in which they will state that Abe will be released from prison due to his health. Abe however will never tolerate such a statement and he will not leave his jail without having heard from official sources that he's not guilty.

Kenny Everett celebrates 25 years of involvement within the radio-industry. He started on Big L X-Mas 1964... He worked on several stations including BFBS, BBC One & Two, Capital and a few ILR stations. Nowadays he's on Capital Gold in London.

Dec. 31st: Al weiner declares that it is NOT true that the MV Sarah has been sold to a group of Europeans. The ship hasn't been sold at all. A personal thought: why making a fuss about the Sarah? Is it really such a fantastic and suitable offshore ship? I very much doubt.

January 1st: A new decennium, the 4th (!!) in Caroline's history. Would you believe in 1967 when the MOA was introduced, that 23 years later Caroline would still be on...?? Caroline's signal is still very poor.

What will the New Year bring, looking at other offshore projects? Forget about the Nannell. And the Communicator? A very 'strange' project. Fact is there are serious plans but also serious problems. This reminds me to the time after Laser Hot Hits ceased trms. Then there were plans to start up two new stations Harmony and Star Force. They never came on the air due to all kinds of problems. Will the same happen with the current project? Later on in this edition more information.

January 2nd: Caroline 558 off air for most of the morning. When the station returns a crystal clear 'powerful' signal is to be heard. Most offshore fans can't believe their ears... The power has been increased from approx. 1 to approx. 6 kW! What a difference. Several people think Caroline was never so strong since the collapse of the 300 ft. aerial tower in November 1987. To show the difference: one of our monitors in the East of The Netherlands, close to the W-German border can easily receive the station as early as 07.00 CET, something which really was impossible in the middle of the winter in recent years. 558 is even audible on carradios during the evening when Viewpoint is broadcasted. And there are more examples of big differences between 1989 and 1990. The coverage

It seems the former SW transmitter and the 819 tx have been linked by Chicago and Mike Dundee. the situation in the transmitter room is, to say the least, dangerous, especially for outsiders. All kinds of wires hanging around and high voltages. The signal at nighttime is much better than the signal of the Radio 819 night-trms last Summer.

January 6th: Just before 11 CET Caroline leaves the airwaves. The antenna wires couldn't withstand the increased power. The wires are replaced.

January 9th: 558 back on the air at 7.00 CET. Signal-strength is similar to a few days earlier before the problems with the wires. Perhaps the mod is a bit less. Programme-schedule is still the same and trms continue till 03.00 CET !! Paul Shelton (formerly on the VoP and Caroline 819) is being heard at night on 558. The format is rather varying: sometimes progressive, sometimes poppy. The producer of the famous RNI double LP, which was released by RNI and Basart in 1973, has an idea to bring out a CD next year when it will be 20 years ago that the Dutch Service started. Since the producer worked freelance for the station, there's a lot of material which hasn't been released so far. Most of this 'stuff' is on studioquality. Plans are to produce the CD in a way that it will content 140 (!!) minutes of material. This is possible due to the fact that on the left channel of your equipment there will be coming out 70 minutes as well as on the right channel. To produce such a CD is an expensive business and there have to be made at least 1000 to make it worth while. Everybody who's interested must write to Hans Knot, P.O.Box 102, 9700 AC Groningen in The Netherlands. The CD will cost £ 10.00 including P&P. A bargain for 140 minutes of listening pleasure, don't you agree??

January 10th: We hear via our correspondent that one of Caroline's senior people says, there's a chance of starting up a second service on the Ross. This additional service will contain the religious output but not only for the evening hours but also during daytime. Also Caroline plans to drop the Top 40 format in favour of an All Day Rock format. Would be fantastic but we have to wait if these plans will really become reality. Let's hope anyway!!

January 11th: The OCD, the Department which was responsible for that horrendous raid on the Ross Revenge back in August, has announced that if the Amsterdam Rechtskamer - the Department of Dutch law which has to decide whether the action was legal or illegal - decides that the action was illegal, the OCD will return all equipment which wasn't used for the output of World Mission Radio and Radio 819. So all caroline equipment would be returned in case the OCD would have been acting illegally. Aren't you curious whether they will be able to sort out all Caroline stuff? Eh...that record was only played on Caroline. No, I heard it also on 819. And that cart machine....eh....what about that poster? It was hanging in Caroline's studio. NO, I'm pretty sure it was hanging in the WMR studio. Can't be true: those religious people don't like posters of Mandy Smith (continue your own story- P.V.).

the legend lives on:

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offshore news

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By the way, the decision will be taken sometime this year. Please try to forget the fact the Paradise court-case took several years. This time the Dutchies will be quick.....eh they HOPE they will be quick.

David Lee Stone, former Laser 558 and Hot Hits deejay, is contracted by Contact 94, the station which beams its signal from the French coast (Normandy) to the Channel Islands. He's presenting a daily show. David is also presenter for a London jingle company called Ay Jay Productions. Have you ever heard the Ay Jay Mega Voice Sample?? There's one in the FRS studio. Excellent!

January 12th: The owners of the MV Nannell have decided there's no future anymore as a radioship. So the ship will be sailed into an English port and all equipment will be taken off. The ship will be scrapped afterwards. The Nannell project will be going into the files as the most expensive radioproject, which hasn't been on the air at all.

A spokesman of the Caroline organisation declares that it's no problem anymore to supply the Ross with new equipment due to the fact the Ross is registered again. The name of the country in which the ship is currently registered wasn't mentioned. A bit silly knowing it is Caroline's DUTY to to put the name of the country of registration on the back side of the ship!!

January 14th: Just a few days after hearing that D.L. Stone started to work on Contact 94, we hear he's out of the project again following disagreements with regard to the programming side. His place has been taken by Dave Richards who perhaps won't be that long on Contact because he stated some time ago that he was willing to return to the Ross as soon as a reasonable signal was provided to the listener's audience.

One of our correspondents reports that a few weeks ago a big party was held on a yacht with people from the former Hauraki offshore project. The yacht went to the old location from which the Tiri ships used to broadcast. On Radio Hauraki a 3 hour special was broadcasted with a lot of memories from the past.

It seems the Caroline studio is nearly complete. Partly with new equipment (even a CD-player!) and also with equipment from the 'Overdrive' studio. The latter equipment wasn't confiscated last August. All in all Caroline is working with very cheap equipment but what does it matter when the sound

offshore news

on the radio is o.k.?

Some, hopefully correct, info about Caroline's antenna system: the aerial is hanging between the two new masts being resp. 80 and 100 ft high. The old masts are taken down. Many of the so-called complaints about interference, having caused the raid in August, appear to have been cooked up. The Caroline organisation even received a letter from Swedish authorities in which was stated that Sweden has NEVER complained about any interference...

There is a chance some (or all?) of the equipment aboard the Nannell will be used elsewhere. To be honest: it would be a shame if all equipment would be taken off the ship without being used elsewhere.

January 17th: Today we hear that the court-case Panlieve SA versus the Kingdom of The Netherlands has been again suspended. But this time not because of the Dutchies but because of Panlieve SA. Money is what it's all about. Panlive SA wants financial compensation for financial losses. Perhaps a decision in the course of February??

January 25th: A heavy storm (or better: hurricane) sweeps across Western-Europe. Caroline 558 leaves the airwaves during noon but to our surprise re-commences trms the day after at 07.00 CET !!! This states the Ross is a very solid ship. Even the masts survived the bad weather. More details about the day of the hurricane next issue.

Today also an interesting article in the Dutch national daily 'Het Algemeen Dagblad' about the Communicator.

'Because of the revolution in Rumania a new offshore radiostation has got into serious problems. While the radiovessel MV Communicator is tied up in a Portuguese harbour, those who are involved in the project are at each other's throats.'

The Panamanian company White Lanca Marine Enterprises Inc. accuses Fred Bolland of failure. It demands the immediate return of the original Bill of sale of MV Communicator by the British Admiralty to Cord Cabo Int. Inc., immediate return of the original Definite Certificate of Registry from Honduras for MV Communicator and last but not least the immediate return of the ship's papers. If all requested documents are not duly and entirely delivered by hand or by registered mail, then legal actions will be commenced against Fred Bolland, quite separate of a penalty fee of US Dollars 10,000 on a daily basis will become payable untill such a date as documents will be received. Bolland is also requested to return all funds entrusted in his care which have as yet not been covered by authorised, justified and accepted expenditure. Furthermore Bolland must justify expenditures worth f 500.000 (= £ 155,000). In case he's not able to justify the aforementioned expenditures, he is requested to return this amount of money as well. Untill such a time that he will have produced acceptable and justified proof of expenditure of the capital of White Lanca Marine Enterprises Inc., Bolland will be held personally and without limitation responsible and liable for the full amount, interest, damages etc.

According to Fred Bolland, White Lanca Marine Enterprises acts on behalf of the Underground Church having offices in Woudrichem (The Netherlands) and the southern part of W-Germany. The Communicator would be fully or partly used to beam evangelical programmes at Rumania where the people are oppressed. Bolland thinks White Lanca is willing to cancel the project because there is now freedom of religion as a result of the December revolu-

tion. He refuses every responsibility. He claims that Waipuna- the company who took care of the crew-is still waiting to receive an amount of money which has to be used to pay the salaries of the crew plus port dues. The ship's papers are in the hands of Waipuna and are being used as pledge. Waipuna seems to be a daughter company of Cord Cable, the former owner of the Communicator. Cord Cable became property of White Lanca on the 12th April 1989. The official transfer of the ship's papers will take place after all debts have been paid by White Lanca. Bolland says he is able to justify every penny of the expenditures. He intended to have been doing this (the transfer of all requested documents as explained earlier) at an earlier stage but couldn't do so because of the fact all documents (not the ship's papers but all the other ones) were confiscated by the Dutch authorities last August when the houses of several people, related to the offshore world, were raided. It is an annoying story but I'm sure we'll come to an agreement Bolland said.

Perhaps for a lot of offshore enthusiasts a rather confusing case. On the other hand, quite a number of conclusions can be drawn from the story in 'Het Algemeen Dagblad'. Let's put first and foremost that the story is very accurate and is 100% in accordance with the info 'FRS Goes DX' had already before the newspaper report appeared. In the course of January we got a copy of a telex which was sent by White Lanca Marine Enterprises Inc. to Mr. Bolland. This telex contained real confidential info which wasn't confidential anymore at the moment the newspaper report was being published. The story about Rumania seems to be a bit far-fetched. On the other hand: we know it was (is?) intended to install at least one powerful SW tx on the Communicator and this unit was intended to be used for religious purposes. To have a better look on the situation we have to go back to April 1989. It was then (Sun April 9th) that the Communicator left Harwich. April 12th a contract was concluded. White Lanca Marine Enterprises Inc. bought the ship from Cord Cable. Cord Cable became property of White Lanca. In the course of the Summer the ship headed for Portugal where a lot of work had to be carried out. Fred Bolland became captain (in fact he was captain between April 12th & Dec. 13th) and a company called Waipuna (could it be Bolland's own company??) recruited a crew who had to carry out all kind of work on the ship under the leadership of Bolland. White Lanca paid Bolland lots of money (we have specifications that he received almost f 500.000,-). Additional equipment was bought by 'our own mandated persons' according to White Lanca. It is clear a high amount of money has been invested in the project so far. So the plans were definitely serious. With regard to the rumours that there are unpaid bills the most obvious conclusion must be that these are not rumours but reality. The only thing which isn't clear at all is who's responsible for paying port fees: Bolland or White Lanca?? Next month we'll continue this highly interesting story. It's sad to know that there is a good chance the Communicator could go down for the 2nd time because of double-crossing. There seem to be people who can't stand the luxury of having large amounts of money available which aren't intended for themselves but for other purposes. Who can trust who?



More listeners Radio One

A recently held survey, done by the BBC, has showed that the popstation Radio 1 is listened to by more people than a year ago. An important cause could be the fact FM transmissions have been introduced. The station claims to have 16 million listeners on a weekly basis, keeping in mind each one of those 16 million listens in average 3 hours per week to the Beeb (Radio One). A lot of new listeners are to be found in the 25- 44 year group of listeners. No changes were noted in the group of listeners aged between 16- 24 years. John Peel attracted a large group of new listeners with his evening programme.

Turnover Invicta Radio increased

In the past year Invicta Radio's turnover increased dramatically. Invicta Radio runs two stations: Coast AM and Invicta FM. The profit the station made was £ 981,000 while the turnover was f 3,390,000. Not bad at all.... New special services are planned in 1990.

Beeb introduces Radio 5

In the course of 1990 the new Radio 5 will commence trms. The station will be on air on a daily basis between 06.00- 24.00 UTC. It will be broadcasting on 693 and 909 kHz AM. These frequencies are currently used by Radio 2. Radio 5 will bring informative pxs, sports, pxs for children and also educational pxs. As a result BBC Radio 2 will only be broadcasting via FM frequencies.

New name County Gold

Problems, in relation with the use of the name GOLD AM, have caused a change of name for the AM Service of County Sound. The IBA has agreed the new name is First Gold Radio 1476 AM.

Protests against Atlantic 252

The start of Atlantic 252 has caused a great number of protests coming from people living close to the giant antenna tower. A group of people have raised a large amount of money to institute legal proceedings against Atlantic 252. It's their aim to have the station silenced. Also all advertisers on Atlantic have been informed about the steps which are being taken. The letter, written by the dupes, contains the info that properties of people living close to the antenna tower, have dramatically decreased in value. There is also talk of interference on telephone lines and other displeasures.

Transatlantic DX new publication

'Medium wave news' has published a new info booklet called '11 Years of Transatlantic Medium Wave DX'. The booklet contains 20 pages and an enumeration is made of all stations which have been received in Great Britain since the end of the 70's. The stations which are listed are coming from South, Central and North America. Details of no less than 250 stations can be read in the very informative booklet which costs only 7 irc's. Send your order to MWN Reprints, 43 Atwood Drive, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, BS11 0SR in the UK.

New transmitters HAM & AWR

High Adventure Ministries has plans to put a new 100 kW tx in Guam. The station will be run under the name KHBN. Target area will be Asia. Adventist World Radio will put a new 100 kW SW tx on air which will be used by KSDA being part of the AWR organisation. Target area for the new tx will be the East Asian countries.

Sky Radio passes 3.5 million listeners

The commercial satellite delivered radiostation Sky Radio has passed the 3.5 million limit early December last year. That means more than 3.5 million cable connections in The Netherlands! According to Sky Radio, broadcasting for just over a year, 1.7 million people are listening to the station on a weekly basis. The daily reach is 700,000 listeners. At this very moment the station hopes to have more than 3.8 million connections in Holland. Apart from the latter country, Sky can also be received in Great Britain, Scandinavia, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland. Quite a success for a station which is only operating since a year. Sky Radio plays non-stop soft pop from CD and the operation is fully automated. Future plans contain the start of a new station called Sky Rock. Officially Sky Radio is a British venture, so there are no problems with Dutch media laws.

The future of Radio 10 doesn't look too bright. We got a bit of inside info informing us that the daily reach is only 60.000. This is a very bad result knowing the potential reach of the station is much higher. Radio 10 has a high number of cable connections in The Netherlands, being more than 3 million. The format of the station is in fact a sum of several separate formats. At least according to an insider who's closely connected to Radio 10. People don't know what they can expect on the station. The station can't be clearly identified by its music because too many different types of music and presentation styles are to be heard. New finances have secured Radio 10's future, at least till October 1990. But the fact it is not 100% for sure the station may stay on the Dutch cable has had a very bad influence on the number of commercials being heard on Radio 10. A dramatic drop which brought the station in serious financial problems. Sky Radio started with no commercials and slowly but surely the advertisers have found their way to the station. Currently a fair number of commercials can be heard on Sky Radio. Remember Sky doesn't have to pay big amounts of money on salaries simply because there is no broadcasting staff. That could be one of the reasons Sky Radio has continued quite a long while without any commercials.

New figures FCC

Recently the FCC published figures with regard to the number of radiostations in the U.S. The figures show there are 4695 AM and 4235 FM stations. All stations are operating on commercial basis. Apart from these figures there are another 1401 so-called Public Radio FM stations active in the country of Uncle Sam.

New edition of Danske Lokalradioer

The 12th edition of Danske Lokalradioer is now available. This 100 page booklet, edited by DX-er Stig Hartvig Nielsen, lists all the 290 local independent radiostations in Denmark currently on air as well as 43 stations due on the air. Also included are all independent local TV stations in Denmark. A very interesting booklet! It is available for 48 DKr incl. P&P which should be sent to giro Copenhagen 9 26 28 73, DDXLK, P.O. box 392, DK-8100 Aarhus C, Denmark. Instead you can also send 8 irc's which is really very cheap!

THE RADIO 270 STORY by Hans Knot. Part 5

NEWSREPORT

The following story could be read on 2 May in the English papers: Radio 270, the offshore radiostation, transmitting off the coast of Scarborough, has presented a political program yesterday. This program was arranged by the Conservative Mondayclub of York University. In the program a.o. a speech of 5 minutes was delivered by Mr. Patrick Wall, the Conservative representative for Haltemprice. A protest against this form of campaigning has been filed in the House of Representatives. The program would have an unfavourable influence on Labour. Mr. Wall said in a comment that the program concerned was recorded at the end of January and that it was intended to be broadcasted earlier on and that it was in no way meant to influence the elections. At last he said: 'As long as it has not been proven that these political talks are illegal I will continue with them.' During the said transmission Mr. Wal spoke about the future relations with the government of Ian Smith in Rhodesia. This country was at that time the largest political issue in England.

COUNTERATTACK

Mr. Andrew Foulds, Labour representative for Smethwick, had heard the broadcast and demanded that the result of the election in York would be nullified. The Postmaster General, Short, replied that he couldn't take a decision in this case. This could only be done by the Home Office. I hope, Short said, that they will take this case very seriously. This is the first time in peacetime, that our country is being manipulated from International Waters with misleading propaganda. This is a very serious case. Mr. Wall wasn't present during the forsaide debate and he said afterwards he hoped Foulds would offer his apologies to him for attacking a Member of Parliament during his absence. Once again he announced that he would continue his political talks: 'If you write a letter to a paper about a political matter it is a legitimate thing to do. If this is legitimate than why wouldn't you be allowed to read out such a letter in a broadcast? Freedom of speech is the same for a written or a spoken letter.' Proudfoot then announced that Mr. A. Lyon, Labour representative for York, had been offered the same broadcasting possibilities, but that he had refused. 'Furthermore', so Proudfoot, 'if I get an offer to broadcast a communist point of view, I will certainly do that as well.' In June 1967 it was announced that the Mondayclub of the University of York, had two other programmes in preparation. The first was once again with Wall as guest-speaker (once again about Rhodesia), the second was by Mr. John Biggs-Davidson (about the Middle East). Labour representative Foulds received the complete written out text of the broadcasts on forehand.

SUCCESS GUARANTEED

Within a year Radio 270 had established itself, an offshore station loved as well locally as national. For the listeners in the North-eastern part of England they had a special offering. A very good idea for instance was the Radio 270 Swap Shop, in which the listener could offer goods in exchange for things they wanted. And this at no charge at all. Furthermore there was traffic information, children's programmes under the title 'Kiddies Corner' and, very frequently, announcements for charity festivities. This all led to a lot of interest in the 270 programmes.

There hasn't been any other offshore station that has broadcasted as much free commercials as 270. Amongst the important charity programmes being promoted were Oxfam, RNLI, Salvation Army, Rotary Clubs and spots for collections for several orphanages. Also stickers of the station were sold (for 1 pence only); the proceedings (5000 pounds) went to the National Institute for the Blind.

ASSISTANCE AND LAW

In July 1967 the first mate of the Ocean 7 fell severely ill and medical assistance was desperately needed. After only one mentioning of this fact in the programmes of Radio 270, the proper authorities were flooded with phonecalls from listeners. In the mean time at the end of July it was announced that the M.O.B. would be passed. Comment by Proudfoot on this decision: 'This law does not frighten us at all, there are several ways to get around this bill after it has become law, like changing the nationality of our English employees.'

FIGHT FOR FREE RADIO

Radio 270 launched probably the largest campaign against the proposed law. All listeners were invited regularly to support the 'fight for free radio' and from the end of July onwards the deejays asked the listeners to write to their local MP's, resulting in thousands complying with this request. Central in this campaign was the publishing of a brochure, in co-operation with the Institute for Economic Affairs, titled: 'Competition in Radio', written by Denis Thomas. In the book the development of commercial radio outside England was described and compared with the offshore stations, resulting in clear propositions for the implementation of commercial radio in England.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Also a large scale advertising campaign was launched in the national press, containing a.o. the following text: 'More than 20 years ago a former director-general of the BBC, sir Frederick Ogilvy, wrote in the Times that the monopoly of the BBC concerning radio broadcasting was a hamper to freedom, no matter how well produced the programmes were, no matter how friendly the responsible persons were. He also stated: It is blocking the freedom of speech, freedom of music, freedom of writing, freedom of acting etc. Protests against this monopoly have been coming a.o. from within the filmindustry and the press. Many attempts have been made to change this monopoly. In sustaining this situation England is far behind all other democratic nations of the world. (26 June 1946). Fight therefore, together with Radio 270, for free radio. For more information, write to: Radio 270, 278 Scalbay Road, Scarborough.'

DIFFICULTIES BEFORE THE CLOSEDOWN

On 4 August 1967 the radioship left its position to return there on 13 August. Her position in this period could not be traced. They had in that time large scale problems with the energy supply, because fish was sucked into the waterinlet for the cooling system. The result: the machines were running at the wrong speed. In the mean time the management of the station had decided to stop the broadcasts after the MOB becoming law, not withstanding earlier boasts by Proudfoot. More about the last breath of Radio 270 in a later installment.

NEWS AND SPORT

News had allways been an important item for the station. A special newsroom had been installed on board, where the newscasts were prepared and was read out for 18 hours a day, on the top of the hour. News, according to statements of that time, that was received from the world largest pressbureaus. Unique was also the 270 sportscovrage under the name of Radio 270 Sport Service. Something which was left out by other offshore stations was the reporting of results and comments on local and national games.

SHORT WAVE ADDRESSES 1-4:

- 1 = P.O.Box 41 - 7700 AA Dedemsvaart - The Netherlands.
- 2 = P.O.box 220342 - D-5600 Wuppertal 22 - West-Germany.
- 3 = P.O.Box 5 - Hunstanton - Norfolk PE36 5AU - England.
- 4 = P.O.Box 19074- 3501 DB Utrecht - The Netherlands



S.W. survey

Welcome in the first SW survey of 1990. In this month's edition we cover the news and loggings from the last two weekends in December as well as well as part of the month of January. However, most attention is paid to the always busy and exciting X-Mas period. Also this year a high number of different stations and much activity on the SW bands. In general there weren't that many stations in compare with previous years. I guess the quantity isn't the most important criterion. Quality is of more importance. And indeed there were a number of very interesting broadcasts. In the last few months a number of loggers have sent in their contributions to our maildrop. This is of great help for this SW column. What I'd like to emphasize is if those loggings could be sent straight away after the FIRST Sunday of the month (so the list should include the loggings of the first Sunday) Your info covers in this way the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 1st Sunday. And ofcourse sometimes an extra 5th Sun as well! If you do so things will be much easier for us when editing your news and loggings. If you hear anything interesting when listening to a certain station (new schedule, new plans etc.), please add this to your list of loggings. 'FRS Goes DX' is considering the idea of introducing lists with loggings like for instance RadioTelex used to do. This idea could be a welcome additional service to the SW enthusiasts. But before this will come true, we have to deliberate about this plan.

* WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO certainly attracted most attention from the SW listeners over the X-Mas period. As already mentioned in the last edition of 'FRS Goes DX' in 1989, the station carried out an impressive number of holiday season broadcasts. The station was to be heard on three frequencies most of the time. Reception on all channels was excellent, especially the 13 & 15 MHz outlets. In the 48 mb WMR was active around 6313 kHz. Further more in the 19 MB on 15043 and 15640 kHz and in the 13 MHz range on 13630 (till about 11.30 CET when Swiss Radio occupies this frequency) which was replaced by 13790 kHz. On the continent very strong signals were noted on the 13 and 15 MHz channels. It is believed the output power of all txs was 100W. During one of the live trms WMR got a phone-call from the USA informing them about the fact both higher frequency txs were to be received there. A fantastic result ofcourse. Pxs were filled with music, on-air calls and DX-news. It is a pity that the station didn't succeed in preparing the live shows, otherwise these would have sounded even better. Live broadcasts were to be heard Dec. 25th, 26th and 31st although we are not 100% sure about the latter date. Fact is that the station was on Dec. 31st on 6236, 6300, 6313, 13630, 15043 & 15640 kHz. No doubt WMR will receive a high number of reports for all these broadcasts. Details next month. During several nights WMR was testing on 48 metres to the USA. Pre-recorded 15 min. loop tapes were played. These tests continued and ended when the live trms commenced (mostly around 10.00- 10.30 CET). Address: 42 Arran Close, Cambridge CB1 4JH in the UK.

* Another UK broadcaster with a special X-Mas reputation is EAST COAST COMMERCIAL. X-Mas Day a live show was broadcasted enabling listeners to make a chat via the phone. Remarkable was the fact the station was forced to leave 6815 kHz due to heavy interference. The latter spoilt already a number of ECC broadcasts in the recent past, at least on the continent. So it was a good decision to move back to the 48 mb instead of using 6815

S.W. news

Dec. 25th 6815 was still in use but part of the broadcast was only to be heard in good quality on 6260 kHz in the 48 mb. The 6815 signal sometimes suffered from heavy utility. New Year's Eve ECC was heard on a (for the time being) brandnew frequency: 6290 kHz. Reception on 6290 was (and is) good but this channel is not a perfect one, also because of utility and other disturbances. It is certainly not a 100% clean frequency for listeners on the continent. This is proved by the fact that 6290 has not been used for ages as a fixed frequency by any of the UK or continental hobby pirates. For instance on the 7th of January, ECC's DX-px was sometimes difficult to follow because of utility. Address: P.O.Box 5, Hunstanton etc. (=3).

- * One of the unique stations on SW during X-Mas was X-MAS RADIO. This one-off station is an idea of Herbert Visser. The station was on air both X-Mas days between 09.00- 15.00 CET on 7314.5 kHz. In general good signals were to be heard but also a quite alternative programming. Several Dutch Radio 10 and Radio 3 deejays presented shows on the station. So far some 25 letters were received via P.O.Box 7315 in Amsterdam. Next X-Mas will see another special broadcast of the station (for the 3rd year in succession). Radio Netherlands' Media Network reported about X-Mas Radio on Thursday Dec. 21st. A lot of stuff, broadcasted on the station during the X-Mas period was -to say the least- rather controversial.
- * BRITAIN RADIO INT. was heard with two broadcasts over the X-Mas period. Boxing Day the station was active on 6230 with a fair signal on the continent. A new 50W tx was used Jan. 1st although the signal strength that day wasn't as good as usual. New qsl cards & beer mats are available as well as a brandnew info-sheet. The station also planned tests to North-America on Jan. 7th & 21st. We have no info whether these tests really took place. Address is 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the UK or (4).
- * R-FM, the London FM station which also operates on SW, made a move to a brandnew channel: 6275 kHz. During the past months R-FM was operating on 6317 kHz. Dec. 30th & 31st R-FM was noted with lengthy broadcasts on 6275. A number of reports reached us saying the R-FM signal was overmodulated. 6275 seems a good choice knowing that WFRL will cease 1st & 2nd Sun trms. Address: 105 Newport Rd, Leyton, London E10 6PH in England.
- * The PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE were testing on 15050 kHz over the X-Mas period. In the UK a good signal was noted. On the continent hardly no reception was possible because of the distance. The dead zone is much larger when broadcasting on a higher channel. There is a good chance PFBS will receive some reports from the USA ! It is believed PFBS will carry out more broadcasts on 15050 in future. Address: (4).
- * A new Dutch SW station is RADIO LONDON. The station already has a reputation for its powerful saturday night broadcasts. However, the OP decided to leave the MW band and to give it a try on SW. On dec. 24th London made its debut trm on 6275 kHz with a power of 20W. Jan. 1st the station made another broadcast, also on 6275. Both times good signals were noted. Meanwhile the power has been upped and the next trm (early February) will be carried out with some 80 W. Address: P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen in Holland

S.W. news

* Despite the fact the station said goodbye to SW, **RAINBOW RADIO GERMANY** was heard during several occasions over the X-Mas period. Very lengthy trms were observed December 24th & 25th. Both trms went out on 6240 and on the continent strong signals were to be heard. Dec. 31st Radio Gravestone Int. was relayed. Listening to the station it seems there's some kind of 'war' between PIN-Magazine and Radio Rainbow. Rainbow did also a test (or a few tests?) to the USA over the X-Mas period. New Year's Day Rainbow was heard on 6240 but later that day also on 6315. Reception in the UK on the latter channel was fair. Most Sun mornings Rainbow can be heard on 6240. Sun Jan. 28th the station suffered from a very distorted mod. This happened during the mail-bag px. Several times the tx was switched off and duly returned. However, the bad mod remained. Probably the tx developed some kind of technical failure. Address: P.O.Box 65027, 3002 DA Rotterdam.

* **KLA RADIO** popped up on 6243 Dec. 25th & 26th. It was the first trm since almost a year. Reception on the continent was hardly possible because of Rainbow's strong outlet on 6240 kHz. 6243 doesn't seem to be the best choice because of Vatican radio on 6248 kHz. Address is BM Broadcasting, London WC1n 3XX in the UK.

* **RADIO GLORIA** from Scotland was testing to the USA overnight X-Mas into Boxing Day. A 1 min. loop tape was being played at least a 100 times.... Dec. 25th the station was also on during daytime, however, no reception on the continent was noted. As far as our info is correct, Gloria has been received in the US. Address: 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh EH12 5YR in Scotland.

* **RADIO LUCE** continues with almost weekly trms on 6520 with fair/good signals on the continent. The station also relays other SW broadcasters. **RADIO WAVES INT.** also continues with weekly trms on 7440 kHz. Most of the time fair/good signals are being heard. Several hobby pirates are being relayed via Waves' facilities. Both Radio Luce and RWI can be contacted at the following address: BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex in France.

* Two Dutch stations, the **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** and **RADIO EAST COAS HOLLAND** made a joint trm on New Year's Eve on 7490 kHz. An excellent signal was noted. Power is believed to be in the region of 0.5 kW. Also a fantastic audio quality was noted. Both stations tested to the USA Sun morning Dec. 24th. RECH was broadcasting on 7490 and suffered from some technical trouble when during the test the mod transformer broke down. Power was at that very moment some 400W. Luckily it happened when most of the test was already broadcast. VOTN tested with a power of approx. 400W on 15050 kHz that same night. Strange enough so far no reports have been received from the USA. You would expect something knowing both stations did use high powers. VOTN is planning another test in the near future. Addresses: P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen (VOTN) and P.O.Box 536, 7900 AM Hoogeveen (RECH).

* **WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON** was noted with a special X-Mas broadcast Sun Dec. 25th. A nice signal was heard on the continent. In Jan. two broadcasts were being heard: Jan. 7th & 14th. Two more regular broadcasts will follow in February and then the station will only be heard on 5th Sun. WFRL is willing to continue its higher frequency tests to N-America and other parts of the world. Keep an eye on 15166, 15729 & 13740 kHz. Address: (3)

* **RADIO FREEDOM** from Scotland has been rather active in the past period. The station was logged during several occasions in Dec. and January. Dec. 17th & Jan. 7th the station was noted on 6205 kHz with fair and sometimes good reception. Non-stop music was played, so programme-wise not very interesting but it could be tests to see what reception is like in the UK and on the continent. Freedom has been announcing a 1st & 3rd Sunday schedule. As long as there aren't any Dutch powerhouses on or around 6205, reception should be satisfactory on the continent. The address: Dept. R., 67 Elm Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4AQ in Scotland.

* Some short items from the UK: **DELTA RADIO** tested Sat Dec. 30th on 6257 kHz. A fair/good signal was heard on the continent. The station will stick to a Sat schedule. Norman Nelson of ECC fame presents pxs on Delta. Address: (3). **UKCM** was heard with one of its rare trms New Year's Day on 6930 kHz. Not the best frequency to use when returning on air after a long absence. Perhaps we'll be hearing more from the station in the near future. When you hear a special version of Peter's 'Peace', remember it is FRS-Holland's very own special remix of this special and beautiful song. **RADIO CONFUSION** carried out two live nighttrms in a row with an on-air phone line (X-Mas & Boxing night). Sad enough no-one rang. This must have something to do with the much longer skip during night on the 48 mb. Address: 32 Victoria Rd etc. (see BRI !). **FALCON RADIO** continues with weekly trms on 6870 with reasonable signal-strength on the continent. Watch out for them when they start operating a much more powerful tx ! Address: MAC, P.O.Box 109, Northampton, UK.

* **ATLANTA RADIO** made a special X-Mas broadcast Sun Dec. 17th on a frequency of 6287 kHz. The usual high standard pxs were to be heard and signal wise good strength was noted on the continent despite the very low power. The good old Atlanta tx (the same as the old FRS txs and also built by Barry Stephens) has been modified and as a result power should be increased from 12W to approx. 25W. However, during the Dec. broadcast there were some technical difficulties and according to Mark Stafford only 8W were coming out of the self-oscillating 807. Atlanta was testing on Jan. 21st and also celebrated- inofficially- the station's 11th birthday. A special 'Best of' from the famous 'Sounds from the Seas' show was broadcast. Sad enough there is a good chance Atlanta will close down in the course of 1990, due to the coming new British broadcasting law. The station will be sadly missed as it certainly is one of Britain's very best SW stations. Address: (3).

* One of the rare appearances on SW over the X-Mas period was a Dutch station called **EUROSAT RADIO**. The station was heard on 15005 kHz and played lots of Beatles stuff and sometimes an ID. Several tests were carried out and possibly Eurosat has been received in the USA. Output power seems to be rather low. Address: P.O.Box 546, 2800 AM Gouda in The Netherlands.

* Some short items about W-German stations: **RADIO ROSTOCK**- the Voice of the Baltic- was noted on 7490 Dec. 17th via relay facilities. Address: (2). **RADIO MARABU** was heard Boxing Day on 6202 with fair strength (2) and **PASSION RADIO** was heard New Year's Eve on 6230 & 6250 kHz with a test. A strong signal was received on the continent. **R. UNIVERSUM** was heard that same day on 7430 with a fair signal. Jan. 7th **RADIO WAHNSINN** was noted on 7430 via a Dutch relay. A good signal was noted. **RADIO POWERPLAY** was also heard via a Dutch relay on 7490 Jan. 7th.

HAURAKI

AUCKLAND'S BEST MUSIC

Last issue of FRS GOES DX we left you with David Gapes, Dennis O'Callahan, Derek Lowe and Chris Parkinson working on the Hauraki project during the first part of 1966. The 169 ton MV Hokianga was found suitable to be used as a radio-ship. In the press reports were published they were furnishing the ship already. This wasn't true, money was still the big problem. To attract new advertisers Lowe and Parkinson (two former workers for NZBC, as we mentioned earlier) decided to make a demo-tape, which sounded fresh and free. So they hoped to prove the coming success of the station.

April 18th, 1966 the four visited Jack Scott, Minister of Post. Scott was suggesting the Hauraki mooring was within territorial waters. However lawyers were able to contradict this statement. This was the first of a lot of disputes between Hauraki and Scott.

May 1966 advertising rating-lists were published, O'Callahan designed the antenna-tower and Parkinson produced the studio's lay out. However, bills for telephone, journeys, office-rent and other things came in. What to do now? Gapes decided to approach the big national oil-company Europe Oil with the following offer: an immediate payment of \$ 10,000 and another \$ 20,000 when the station had come to the airwaves to get airtime. Gapes, playing his role very well, even draw a deadline: his offer should be answered within three weeks. It was just like poker! After three weeks exactly the answer came from Europe Oil: YES!

The \$ 10,000 was transferred to Pacific Radio Advertising, a division of Hauraki. With the money parts of the transmitter were bought.

Chris Parkinson got money to buy turntables, mixers, taperecorders and other devices to build studios in the new Hauraki-office in the Colebroadcasting-building. The rent was \$ 30 a month.

Buying a transmitter was really difficult 'cause only the New Zealand Post Office was allowed to buy transmitters. However an anonymous person offered an old American army transmitter, used for mores-communication purposes. This transmitter had a power of 1 KW. The price was \$ 300 and this offer was accepted thankfully. The transmitter was transported to the office, where the conversion towards 1480 kHz was O'Callahan's job.

June 1966 the financialside of the enterprise looked as follows: \$ 10,000 from Europe Oil, bank credit \$ 4,000, \$ 2,000 from ship's owner Frankham and \$ 6,000 from two Auckland businessmen. In the meantime Gapes and Lowe had sold \$ 16,000 advertisements, mainly from Auckland enterprises. The national companies were awaiting the developments.

The Hokianga was hired from Frankham for the period August 1966 - February 1967. Hauraki had to pay the minimal amount of \$ 1,000. After February 1967 the price would become \$ 333 a month.

The new Hauraki lawyer invented a plan to cut down the costs of the station. When they took off the ship's screw it would no longer be a ship according to the law, but a pram. This meant they didn't have to stall a fixed number of seamen on the ship. Furthermore the insurance-fee would be much lower.

First day of transmissions should be August 25th 1966.

Frs Feature

However: at the beginning of August 1966 enthusiasm was replaced by disappointment. The deal with Frankham was cancelled. Reason: contractual obligations on the Hokianga. No ship, No Hauraki...

Frankham suggested an alternative: the old TIRI, towed up to the quay of King's Warf. A joke? Everybody was laughing, because at the start of the project New Zealand television payed attention to the dream of Gapes. However, there was no ship yet. The t.v. crew wanted to show a radioship to the public. Gapes pointed at the Tiri and the t.v. crew had a good laugh. What a wreck! After the recording of the program Gapes happily thought this wasn't his ship...

35 Years old, 40 meters long Tiri made the impression of sinking immediately. Rusty cabins, covered with mould, empty bottles, left behind by tramps, rotten plating and a broken motor.

"Beggars don't have any choice", Gapes thought and accepted the offer: \$ 6,000 to be payed in four years time. The family grewed: Alan Pepler, Peter Telling, Simon Jones, Paddy O'Donnel, all from local NZBC stations, were attracted by the atmosphere of freedom and happiness. Good prospects had to compensate a week's salary of \$ 20.

Some took part-time jobs in factories to earn an additional income.

During that time the on-land studios were finished. Jingles were produced, different formats tested, the right presentation "tone" tried out, but 1480 kHz still was silent. The key to make an end to this silence was in the hands of O'Callahan, who was making 18 hours a day on board the Tiri. In the meantime he had started building the 40 meters antenna-tower. This all was carried on on the shipyard where the Tiri was undergoing maintenance. This meant the installing of a 50 kva generator, heating, watersupply and painting the outside of the ship: dazzling yellow!

In August Gapes wanted to have another chat with Jack Scott. He wanted to find out the chances for commercial radio in New Zealand. November 1966 elections would be held and this item could become quite actual. There was no real outcome of this discussion; NZBC would held the monopoly for quite a period in future. However Scott concluded threatening it would become really difficult to get the Tiri in international waters!

September 1966 work on the ship developed very slowly. The Postoffice refused to give permission for radio-telephone on the ship. This equipment had to serve the communication with the office on land. Hauraki reacted with the purchase of twelve pigeons! This resulted in funny publicity for the station.

FRS GOES DX+

+KEEPS YOU INFORMED!!

f.r.s. feature